



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate D
SG.D.3 – Resource Efficiency

Brussels, 23 February 2017

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NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

**Subject: Meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
Brussels, 20 February 2017 - Summary record**

The SCA meeting was mostly devoted to the resumption of the co-decision process on the Organic Farming Regulation, following 6 weeks of informal outreach by the Presidency towards all Member States. Trilogue No. 15 is now scheduled to take place on 8 March and preparation of the Council's mandate will need to continue at the CSA meeting on 27 February. Regarding the key issue of pesticide residues detected in organic products (and whether such a finding should lead to an automatic decertification or not), the Presidency still struggles to identify a solution backed by a sufficient qualified majority and also the Commission has reserved its position on this matter.

Further information:

1. Adoption of the agenda

I

**2. Summary record of the 1542nd meeting of the SCA
6302/17 CRS CSA 2**

II

**3. Draft of the Council Decision on the signing on behalf of the European Union,
of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Chile on
trade in organic products**
– Adoption

The Commission commented that in its view the Commission should sign the agreement or at the very least co-sign the agreement with whoever is appointed to do so by the Presidency.

The Presidency confirmed that the standard provisions have been included in the text and that this reflects the normal Council practices. The Presidency confirmed that the point will be proposed for inclusion as an “A” item on the upcoming Council meeting of 6 March.

Contact: [REDACTED], DG AGRI, Unit I.5 Tel.: [REDACTED]

4. Draft of the Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Chile on trade in organic products
– Exchange of views Request for the consent of the European Parliament

See point 3 above.

5. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products, amending Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [Official controls Regulation] and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007
– Examination of the Presidency compromise text

The Presidency presented a revised compromise text to the Delegations, prior to requesting a mandate from the SCA on 27 February. The Presidency informed the delegations it has the intention to resume trilogue negotiations in March with a trilogue meeting being planned for 9 March (tbc, depending on availability EP).

The Commission commented that in its view the compromise text constitutes a good basis to start the negotiations, with some areas needing some further progress. The Commission also stressed the need to reach an agreement as this would be a positive sign.

Regarding the particular point on pesticides, the Commission suggested to put this item aside as in its view it is for the Commission to decide as this concerns a political file.

A vast majority of delegations (LU, PT, RO, FI, SI, ES, SE, DE, LV, IT, ..) welcomed the work carried out by the Presidency and expressed their general support on the revised compromise text. The main comments made by the delegations regarded specific items such as the controls arrangements (annual frequency and need of risk-based inspections), seed production, greenhouses, use of pesticides, databases, and unpacked products.

The Commission noted the positive mind frame expressed by the delegations and the specific comments made on individual chapters are parts.

The Presidency invited the delegations to reflect on the amendments made and communicated its intention to request a mandate during the next SCA meeting of Monday 27/02 (DL for delegations comments by noon 21/02). As the outcome of the SCA meeting of 27/02 will determine whether the negotiations with the EP will be

resumed, the Presidency called for some flexibility from the delegations on certain parts of the proposal.

The CY delegation also requested to consider this item for inclusion on the agenda of the AGRIFISH Council meeting of 6 March.

The legal service of the Council also mentioned some legal clarification work on the proposal is needed in good time.

Finally, the Presidency noted the broad agreement at the level of the delegations, and communicated it will further work on the revised text in view of THE SCA meeting of 27/02.

Contact: [REDACTED], DG AGRI, Unit B.4 [REDACTED]

6. Organisation of future work

The next SCA will take place on 27 February. The indicative agenda includes the following points: Organic farming and Omnibus proposal (second round). The Presidency will soon communicate information on how these discussions will be structured.

The Presidency also informed the delegations that a background document on the future of the CAP will be distributed in view of the March AGRIFISH Council meeting. This document will include a number of *priorities* aimed to guide the development of future agricultural policies as well as questions to structure the debate during the Council meeting of 6 March. The Presidency also intends to ask the opinion of the delegations on these priorities during the next SCA meeting of 27/02.

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